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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

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AMARAVATI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

G.3824

PART II - MISCELLANEOUS NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC

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NOTIFICATIONS BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS Etc.,

**PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS &
HEAD OF FOREST FORCE,
ANDHRA PRADESH, "ARANYA BHAVAN", MANGALAGIRI.**

Rc.No.3833/2018/Admn.3(i).

Date: 19-01-2024.

FINAL NOTICE

DISCIPLINARY ACTION INITIATED AGAINST Sri VED SINGH, OFFICE SUB-ORDINATE (Retd.), OFFICE OF THE PCCF & HOFF, A.P., MANGALAGIRI, GUNTUR UNDER RULE-20 OF APCS (CC&A) RULES, 1991 - RETIRED ON 30.04.2018 - PROPOSAL UNDER RULE OF A.P., REVISED PENSION RULES, 1980 - COMMUNICATION OF THE FINDINGS OF THE INQUIRY OFFICER - FURTHER DEFENSE STATEMENT CALLED FOR.

Ref : GM No. 1166/Sec.IV/A1/2023, EFS &T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated: 29.12.2023.

The findings of the Inquiry Officer is communicated herewith. The Charged Officer i.e. Sri Ved Singh, Office Sub-ordinate (Retd.), Office of the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Guntur is requested to submit his defense statement if any, on the Inquiry report to the Inquiry Officer, within (15) days from the date of receipt of this notice. He is further informed that, if no further defense statement is received within the stipulated time, it will be construed that he has no defense to offer in the matter and further action will be taken based on the records available.

CHIRANJIV CHAUDHARY,
*Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
 Head of Forest Force (FAC).*

To

Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate (Retd.) D.No.23-4-179, Sultan Shahi, Hyderabad Pin:500065.

**INQUIRY REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY HELD AGAINST THE
 CHARGED OFFICER I.E., SRI VED SINGH, OFFICE SUBORDINATE (RETD.),
 O/O THE PRL.CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HEAD OF FOREST
 FORCE, A.P, MANGALAGIRI.**

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Inquiry report submitted by the Inquiry Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests (NC), O/o the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Guntur in Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021/DCF-NC, dt. .02.2023.

1. Under sub-rule (2) of Rule 20 of A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules 1991, the Chief Conservator of Forests (Admn), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has appointed the Deputy Conservator of Forests (NC), O/o the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Guntur as Inquiring Authority to inquire into the charges framed against the Charged Officer, Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.) O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur vide Chief Conservator of Forests(Admin), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Proceedings No.3833/2018/Vig-1(i), dt:08.04.2021.

Accordingly, the inquiry has been completed ex parte on the basis of documents, presentation of the case by the Presenting Officer and available information, as the whereabouts of the Charged Officer could not be traced. Hence, the findings drawn are submitted hereunder.

2. The Assistant Conservator of Forests(SC), O/o the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P, Guntur was appointed as the Presenting Officer in CCF(Admin), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Proceedings No.3833/2018/Vig-1(ii), dt:08.04.2021.

3. PARTICIPATION OF THE CHARGED OFFICER IN THE INQUIRY:

The Charged Officer has not participated in the inquiry.

4. ARTICLE OF CHARGE AND SUBSTANCE OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR:

Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.) while working in O/o the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF as Office Subordinate had exhibited gross negligence of duty as mentioned in the following Article of Charge:

Article:

"That Sri Ved Singh, Office subordinate, exhibited gross negligence of duty and absconding from duty for a long period since August,2016 without information/applying /taking prior permission causing dislocation of Office work and failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of a Government Servant in violation of Rule 3 of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules,1964."

a) Case of the Disciplinary Authority :**Article:**

"That Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate, exhibited gross negligence of duty and absconding from duty for a long period since August,2016 without information /applying /taking prior permission causing dislocation of Office work and failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of a Government Servant in violation of Rule 3 of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules,1964."

Basis of the Charge:

The APCCF(A&DC) vide U.O.Note no.4550/2015/Admn-3 dated 15.02.2018 furnished a report informing that Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur has been absconding from the duty for a long period since August,2016 without information/applying/taking prior permission caused dislocation of Office work and failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of a Government servant in violation of Rule 3 of APSCS(Conduct) Rules,1964.The APCCF(A&DC) had requested to initiate suitable disciplinary action against the Office Subordinate for his unauthorized absence from the duty.

From the above, it is evident that Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur is in the habit of proceeding on un-authorized leave from duty.

Thus, Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of a Government Servant in violation of Rule 3 of A.P.Civil Service(Conduct) Rules,1964. Hence the charge.

b) **Case of the Defendant:**

The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of the Articles of Charge on 13.04.2018. He has not submitted his written statement. Further, the Charged Officer retired on 30.4.2018. The Inquiry Notices dated 30.9.2021, 25.10.2021 and 15.03.2022 sent through the registered post to the Charged Officers permanent address as per his Service Register, were returned. Hence, as per Rule 42(iii) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Control Classification and Appeal) Rules, 1991 as the Inquiry notices could not be served, were published in Andhra Pradesh Gazette dated 23.09.2022 and 26.10.2022. However, the Charged Officer has not attended the Inquiry.

REMARKS/WRITTEN BRIEF OF THE PRESENTING OFFICER:

ARTICLES OF CHARGE AND SUBSTANCE OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR:

Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate (Retd.) while working in the O/o the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests as Office Subordinate had exhibited gross negligence of duty as mentioned in the following Article of Charge:

Article: "That Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate, exhibited gross negligence of duty and absconding from duty for a long period since August, 2016 without information /applying /taking prior permission causing dislocation of office work and failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of a Government Servant in violation of Rule 3 of A.P.Civil Services(Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Basis of the Charge:

The APCCF(A&DC), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur vide U.O. note no.4550/2015/Admin-3, dt.15.02.2018 has furnished a report informing that Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur has been absconding from the duty for a long period since August, 2016 without information/applying/taking prior permission causing dislocation of office work and failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and exhibited conduct of unbecoming of a Government servant in violation of Rule 3 of APSCS(Conduct) Rules, 1964.

The APCCF(A&DC) has requested to initiate suitable disciplinary action against the Office Subordinate for his unauthorized absence from the duty.

From the above, it is evident that Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate, O/o the PCCF (HoFF) A.P Guntur is in the habit of unauthorized absence from duty.

Further, it is submitted that, the Accounts Officer-II/DDO, Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P, Mangalagiri has informed that the Pay & Allowances of Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.) from August, 2016 to till his retirement i.e., 30.04.2018 were not claimed as per the pay roll records, in response to ACF(SC)/PO, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Mangalagiri U.O. Note no. ACF(SC)/2023, dt. 01.02.2023.

ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE IN RESPECT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE:

- 1) Consequent to appointment as Inquiry Officer, an inquiry notice was issued to the Charged Officer, Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur to the address of Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate (Retd.), S/o Late Sri Hari Singh, D.no.23-4-179, Dultna Shahi, Hyderabad 5000065, in Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC, dt.30.09.2021 by Registered Post under intimation to the Assistant Conservator of Forests(SC) who is the Presenting Officer with a request to attend the inquiry. The same was returned by the postal authority on 12.10.2021 mentioning that "continue (7) days door locked". Further, 2nd Inquiry Notice was issued to the Charged Officer to the same address in Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC, dt.25.10.2021 and the same was returned by the postal authorities. 3rd Inquiry Notice was also issued to the Charged Officer through the Registered Post to the same address in Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC, dt.15.03.2022and the same was also returned by the postal authorities.

Further, it is submitted that, in U.O.Noteno.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC/IO, dt.11.08.2022, the Accounts Officer/DDO, Office of the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P, Guntur, was requested to furnish whether the Charged Officer was drawing provisional pension or not and the details of full address, so as to forward the Inquiry Notice to the Charged Officer. In response, the Accounts Officer, O/o the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P, Guntur in U.O.Note no.6865/2018/A&P.4, dt.18.08.2022 has stated that, "the Charged Officer was requested to submit the pension proposal forms for processing to the A.G., A.P, Amaravathi vide PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Ref.no.6865/2018/A&P4, dt.17.03.2021 and 03.01.2022 by RPAD. But, the same was returned. The Postal authorities have informed that the individual left from the said address. And further informed that, the Charged Officer was not sanctioned provisional pension and other pensionary benefits due to non-submission of the application for pension by the retiree till to date."

- 2) In view of the above, as per Rule 42(iii) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services(Control Classification and Appeal)Rules,1991 as the Inquiry Notices could not be served , in Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC/IO, dt.23.09.2022, the Inquiry Officer has addressed the Commissioner, Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase, Main Road, Mutyalammapadu, Vijayawada and requested to publish the Inquiry Notice in the A.P.Gazette, as per Rule 42(iii) of APSCS(CC&A) Rules,1991 and supply(06) copies of the Gazette Publication, for taking further action in the matter, duly enclosing the Inquiry Notice Ref.no. EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC/IO, dt.23.09.2022 seeking Charged Officer to attend the Inquiry on 10.10.2022. The Inquiry Notice was however published in A.P.Gazette on 10.10.2022, which happened to be the stipulated inquiry date.

3) In view of the above, in Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC/IO, dt.26.10.2022, the Inquiry Officer has again addressed the Commissioner, Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase, Main Road, Mutyalammapadu, Vijayawada and requested to publish the Inquiry Notice in the A.P.Gazette, as per Rule 42(iii) of APSCS(CC&A) Rules,1991 and supply (06) copies of the Gazette Publication, for taking further action in the matter, duly enclosing the Inquiry Notice Ref.no.EFS02/19/2021-DCF-NC/IO dt 26.10.2022 seeking Charged Officer to attend the Inquiry on 22.11.2022.The same was published in Andhra Pradesh Gazette on 02.11.2022.However, the Charged Officer has not attended the inquiry.

4) **The APCCF(A&DC), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur in his U.O.Note no.4550/2015/Admn-3, dt.15.02.2018 informed that Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate has not been attending the duties without informing from August,2016. Thereby, an AoC was issued in PCCF(Admin.) & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Ref.no.3833/2009/Vig-1, dt.04.04.2018 under Rule 20 of APSCS (CC&A) Rules,1991. The Charged Officer acknowledged the AoC on 13.04.2018. However, the Charged Officer did not submit his written statement of defence till date. Meanwhile, the Charged Officer retired from Government service on superannuation on 30.04.2018.**

5) Three (3) Inquiry Notices are issued to Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.) and (2) times Gazette Notification of Inquiry Notice was published. However, the Charged Officer has not attended Inquiry. In view of the above, on verification of available information, the details obtained from the Accounts Officer/DDO, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur and brief note of Presenting Officer it is construed that the Charged Officer was absent from duty since August,2016. Hence, the ex-parte findings against the Charged Officer are submitted hereunder.

Findings :

"After examining the connected case records and available information, in view of the above reasons, **the Charge framed against Sri Ved Singh, Office Subordinate(Retd.,) is held proved.**"

G. KRISHNA PRIYA,
Inquiry Officer,
Dy. Conservator of Forests (NC).

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